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SOURCE Zarya Vostoka.

GEORGIAN SSR BRICK INDUSTRY ENCOUNTERS BOTTLENECK IN DRYING BRICK

During the first 4 months of 1953, brick output in the Georgian SSR was double that of the same period in 1952. In addition, tile production was increased 74 percent and gypsum production [illegible] percent. An increase was also made in the production of lime and other building materials.

However, although the 4-month [illegible] building materials production has been exceeded, the republic's building demands for greater output and new and higher quality products are not being met.

Within the next few years, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Georgian SSR expects to build several new enterprises. A mechanized plant to produce decorative facing tuff is being built in the republic, and the Tkibuli-Shaoreli Lime Plant is undergoing reconstruction. Silicate brick plants are to be built in Adzhameti and Vakhtan, a large tile plant is to be built in Metekhi, and the tile shops of the Gurchkani and Nosiri plants are to be enlarged.

However, the building of new plants will not alone increase production of building materials. Existing plants must be utilized at greater capacity. The volume of production per cubic meter of furnace is low in a number of brick, tile, and lime manufacturing plants.

The Samtredia Brick Plant, which employs progressive labor methods in manufacturing and is the most advanced plant in the Georgian SSR, dries brick now in its tunnel kiln in 3 hours. This plant has been able to obtain a production volume of 1,350 bricks per cubic meter of kiln. The Gurchkani and Saburtalino brick plants have also shown noticeable improvement, but the volume of production per cubic meter of kiln at these plants still does not exceed 700-900 bricks. Production of an additional 100 bricks per cubic meter of kiln throughout the industry would enable it to produce at least an additional 8.5 million bricks a year.

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To achieve maximum output from the kilns, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Georgian SSR has taken steps to mechanize work operations at the brick and tile plants to maximum capacity by simplifying the forming, pressing, and drying operations, and by introducing the experiences of innovators more widely. The extraction and delivery of clay are now completely mechanized at all brick plants except the Lanchukhuti Brick Plant.

The ministry has been encountering its greatest bottleneck in the drying of brick in the tunnel dryers. Until 1950, the republic's brick plants were drying brick by natural means (in racks and tent-like sheds). All of the brick plants are now equipped with mechanized flow lines and artificial dryers and have been converted to continuous year-round operations.

However, the lack of know-how in the use of artificial dryers has greatly hampered operations. The more advanced plants, such as the Samtredia and Gurzhaani brick plants, have been able to cut drying time considerably below norm. They have cut the time to 22-30 hours at high temperatures. On the other hand, the dryers at the Khashuri, Lanchukhuti, and other brick plants have been operating poorly and have been causing a great amount of waste; these plants have been prolonging the drying period to as much as 60 hours. The ministry is largely responsible for this prolongation because of its failure to establish a more reasonable system under which the drying apparatus could operate.

When the dryers built at the Nosiri and Zugdidi brick plants are put in operation and when those at the Lanchukhuti, Gurzhaani, and Metekhi brick plants are completed and put in operation, the republic's brick industry will be in a much more favorable position.

In the second half of 1953, the ministry expects to manufacture perforated brick and to increase the output of facing stone and brick substitutes.

By 1955, tile production is expected to be doubled. The ministry is converting some of its enterprises to manufacturing grooved tile. This conversion will make it possible to increase the output of existing plants 25-30 percent.

Lime, especially ground carbonaceous lime, has been found to be in great demand by builders. The Tbilisi Lime and Pozzuolana Cement Plant, which has been manufacturing this lime, has been carrying on work to add slag /cinders ?/ to its lime manufacturing process. This will increase the plant's output and considerably reduce costs.

The tuff, stone, granite, and basalt quarries will be mechanized completely. The supply of these materials is limited only because the building organizations and planning institutes have considered their production impractical. Many of the republic's builders now deem it essential that a stone cutting and processing plant be built in Tbilisi to supply the building projects with dressed and polished stone.

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Georgian SSR feels that a scientific-research institute on construction materials should be established in the republic.

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